



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...

IBC will co-sponsor the 2015 UI Cereal Schools - SOUTH

Feb. 3 - Burley Inn
Feb. 4 - Poc. Red Lion
Feb. 5 - Idaho Falls University Place (Bennion Student Union Bldg) & Ashton Trails End
Feb. 6 - Preston Fairgrounds
Mar. 16 - Fairfield

NORTH

Feb. 24 - Greencreek Community Center
Feb. 25 - Genesee Firehall
Feb. 26 - Bonners Ferry fairgrounds

2015 Grain Marketing /Hedging 101 Workshops

8:30 a.m. to NOON

- ♦ Jan. 14 – Hampton Inn, Idaho Falls
- ♦ Jan. 15 – Burley Inn, Burley

Featuring Brian Rydlund, CHS Hedging Market Analyst, Minneapolis, MN

Brian has been with CHS Hedging Inc. in their price risk management services since 1991. Brian's current responsibilities include handling large commercial hedge accounts, working with individual producers and conducting educational classes. Brian grew up on a small farm north of the Twin Cities in Rush City, MN, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. He began his career in 1983 as a grain merchandiser for Harvest States Cooperatives.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED by calling Idaho Barley Commission at 208-334-2090 or 208-409-9165 or by emailing kolson@idahobarley.org

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LINK TO RECORDED WEBINAR on Understanding the Idaho Harvest 2014 Weather Events and Winter 2015

Weather Outlook, presented by Troy Lindquist, senior hydrologist with the National Weather Service at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p9az3133g4g>

Guest article on Immigration Reform and What it Means for Idaho Agriculture by Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers of Idaho, Boise, ID

On November 13, President Obama announced executive action on immigration reform. The President's Plan:

- Will shift more resources to border enforcement.
- Will emphasize deporting criminals and persons suspected of involvement in terrorism or gang activity.
- Will allow about 3.7 million immigrants to take a background check and apply for limited permission to stay in the country.
- Will expand a deferred action program to cover more of the Dreamers — children of illegal immigrants brought to this country as children.

While there are limited details on each of the components listed, we will give you what details we have been able to find so far.

Increased Border Enforcement:

The President plans on providing additional resources to supplement the border enforcement that currently exists. That will likely take the form of an increase in the use of technology such as “drones”. The number of border agents has been increase by 60,000 over the past decade and that has helped reduce the number of aliens illegally crossing the border. Statistics kept by the agency show that border crossings have been cut in half over the past six years. Part of that decrease can be attributed to the economic downturn from 2009 – 2012 when available jobs were limited, but the actions by Congress and the President to increase enforcement have made an impact.

Emphasis on deporting criminals:

The majority of the deportation actions taken by “immigration and naturalization” over the past decade have been taken on undocumented workers. Raids on businesses and enforcement actions taken on employers has resulted in hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers being deported, while limited action has been taken to deport those who commit crimes in this country. Details on this portion are not yet available, however many of the experts feel that deportation will be the preferred course of action for convicted criminals rather than holding them in the American penal system.

Legalizing existing population:

The President's plan – that will start on January 1, 2015 – will provide legal status for approximately 3.7 million undocumented immigrants who already live in this country. The plan calls for anyone who has lived in this country for more than five years and have children who are American citizens to come forward and register, pass a criminal background check and pay any outstanding taxes. These immigrants would then be eligible for a renewable work permit with no fear of deportation.

This does not apply to anyone who has recently crossed the border illegally. It does not grant citizenship. It does provide for a legal surety to work in this country.

It should be noted that this is very similar to what the Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform has been suggesting for the past 6 years.

Deferred Action for “Dreamers”:

This will expand the previous deferred action on deportation policy of the President by approximately 300,000 younger immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children.

Legal authority: There has been, and there will continue to be, a considerable number of members of Congress and pundits questioning the legal authority of the President to implement these policies. The underlying authority that President Obama is relying on to act without Congressional authority is the principle of “Prosecutorial Discretion.” The President has always been able to decide where to set the law enforcement and prosecutorial priorities. He is relying upon this legal construct to explain that this action does not require Congressional action.

The President referenced action taken on this issue by President George H. Bush to not prosecute around 1.5 million undocumented spouses and children of people shielded from deportation by a previous law to also stay in the United States. There is a major difference between the two actions however; President Bush was using his authority to interpret a law passed by Congress. President Obama has no such authority.

Economic Impact: This action will have an impact on the country’s economy. Economists, through various studies by groups as divergent as the Pew Institute for Hispanic studies and the Cato Institute, have found that people who have been working illegally may now seek higher paying jobs and increase the wage competition for labor. The Reagan immigration act in 1986 that gave legal status to 3 million undocumented immigrants had an almost immediate impact on the labor market.

Entitlement Programs: It is currently illegal for aliens living in this country to receive welfare benefits. Foreign nationals that have a “Green Card” are ineligible for benefits for the first five years of work. The theory is that after five years of paying taxes any benefits have been fully covered by those taxes. Workers holding any other type of permit or visa are expressly excluded from welfare benefits under the welfare rewrite of the mid-90’s. Illegals cannot use welfare benefits at all.

The Politics: While much of what the President has proposed benefits the agriculture industry in Idaho and follows the message that the Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform has been stating over the past 6 years, it would be much better for the issue to be solved through a bipartisan effort in Congress with Presidential input. There is a genuine fear that these actions by President Obama could actually damage any hope of a comprehensive agreement being developed.

The best way for Congress to take action on the issue is to introduce and pass comprehensive legislation addressing the issues involved with a broken immigration system.

Impact to Idaho Agriculture: What the President is proposing is very close to what Idaho agriculture has been asking Congress to do over the past few years, so it should be fairly well received. It would be much better had it come through Congressional action, but until that happens we will need to work with what is on the table.

It appears that applications for the program will begin on January 1, 2015. This means that those undocumented workers in Idaho will be able to come forward and apply for legal status for themselves and their family. There will be many requirements to adhere to in order for an application to be approved. Among those are:

In the country for at least five years. Using various legal records will be helpful in proving residence for the full time frame. Utility records, drivers’ license, pay stubs and even tax fillings

(yes many undocumented workers have been paying taxed for years).

Pay outstanding taxes: The previous thought was that any back taxes be paid current. It is extremely difficult to figure out back taxes when there could be years of no filing or a transient work history, so the requirement will likely be that current outstanding taxes be paid in full prior to application.

Criminal background check: The background check will be completed by the authorities that are in charge of the application process. Anyone with a felony on their record will be automatically disqualified and likely deported. Multiple misdemeanors could also be a reason for disqualification.